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LB 1172

fewer fees are preferred to more fees. There is a strong component here of local control, and there is also a strong component of public discussion and disclosure of the fee policy. So perhaps what I'll do at this point is stop with that and, of course, be available to address any questions you might have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening. Mr. Clerk, amendments to the committee amendments.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kristensen would move to amend the committee amendments. (AM2952, Legislative Journal pages 855-858.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kristensen, you are recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1172.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. When this session started, in my opinion, there were a few issues that were extremely important that we accomplish this year. Obviously, the budget is number one. The second one, in my judgment, and that is just one of 49, is the student fee issue. And why is that important? Well, Senator Raikes talked about the lawsuits that face the school districts in this state. This will impact, this issue will impact every school more than state aid impacts them because state aid only impacts equalized school districts, basically. This impacts every school district. They can't afford to be wrong in these areas. And so the Education Committee introduced bills, I introduced a bill, and I think there ought to be some overriding concepts that ought to guide us in this discussion. The first concept is that we ought to approach this from a statewide perspective. The constitution isn't different in each school district. It is the same in every school district. Now the committee amendment is, basically, and perhaps I'm going to phrase this inaccurately from the Education Committee's point of view, but, basically, what the Education Committee is doing is they are saying, you know, we are going to discourage you from doing fees, and if you decide to do it, you're doing it on your own risk, because if you lose, you are going to have to pay the costs of the lawsuit, and you can have your public hearings, you